

Appl. No. : 09/780,248  
 Filed : February 9, 2001

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. Withdrawn

2. Withdrawn

3. Withdrawn

4. Withdrawn

5. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

~~allowing each of~~ accepting bids from a plurality of users ~~to submit bids~~ for a specified item being auctioned, said bids being submitted from any of a number of clients over a network to a server which collects said bids; and

defining rules for actions in said auction, said rules including at least a time when the action will take place, and an actual action that will take place at the defined time;

and

keeping the rules secret until the defined time.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein said actions are bids to take place at the defined time.

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7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein said actions are allowing override of a previous bid.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an auction over a network, comprising:

for any particular auction, sending information from a server computer to a local computer, which information enables the local computer to carry out some function associated with bidding on an item, wherein said information includes information about a bid amount which will be necessary for the user at the local computer to be a highest bidder;

making a decision at the local computer to accept or reject a new bid from a user at the local computer; and

only if the new bid is accepted at said local computer, sending information about the new bid to the server computer,

wherein said accepting a bid comprises comparing a local bid to said highest bid information, and sending said information to said server computer only when said local bid is higher than said highest bid information.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein said information includes information about a bid amount which will be necessary for the user at the local computer to be a highest bidder, and wherein said accepting a bid comprises comparing a local bid to said highest bid information, and sending said information to

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said server computer only when said local bid is higher than said highest bid information.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 9, further comprising automatically updating each of a plurality of computers with new information.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
displaying an item for sale by auction over a network; and  
allowing displaying information which allows entering a user to enter either one of  
a bid for said item, or an amount that automatically wins the auction.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 15, further comprising automatically updating at least parts of the display seen by a plurality of users indicative of the item for sale.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 15, wherein said displaying an item for sale comprises displaying a three-dimensional view of the item for sale.

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18. (Original) A method as in claim 15, further comprising displaying a screen tip indicating bid amounts.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 15, wherein said network is the Internet.

20. (Original) A method, comprising:  
displaying an item for sale over the Internet, by causing said item to be displayed on each of a plurality of client computers associated with the Internet, based on commands from a server computer; and  
displaying information associated with the bid for the item in a screen tip associated with the item when a cursor is placed over the item on one of the client computers.

21. (Original) A method as in claim 19, wherein said information associated with the bid for the item is a current bid amount.

22. A method as in claim 19, wherein said information associated with the bid for the item is a bid amount, and  
further comprising allowing the user to accept a bid amount associated with a screen tip.

23. (Original) A method of conducting an auction over a network, comprising:

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for any particular auction of an item, sending information to a plurality of local computers which enables the local computers to carry out some function associated with bidding on the item;

displaying said information on said local computers;

automatically updating said displaying on each of said plurality of computers with new information.

24. (Original) A method as in claim 22, wherein said automatically updating comprises automatically refreshing a Web browser running on computers associated with said at least some of said plurality of users.

25. (Original) A method as in claim 22, wherein said automatically updating comprising using streaming video to form certain parts of said view.

26. (Original) A method as in claim 22, wherein said automatically updating comprises using stop motion video to form certain parts of said view.

27. (Original) A method as in claim 22, further comprising determining an action representing a change in an auction condition, and wherein said automatically updating is responsive to said determining.

28. (Currently amended) A method comprising:  
conducting an auction over a network by accepting bids for items, and  
establishing a highest bid for an item as being a winning bid; and

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treating a bid received within a predetermined period of time before an end time of an auction less favorably than bids received prior to said predetermined period.

29. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 27, further comprising displaying information allowing a seller to select an amount of time defining said predetermined period.

30. (Original) A method as in claim 27, further comprising determining a bid received within said predetermined period of time that was placed by a bidder who has previously participated in other bids prior to said predetermined period of time, and not treating said bid by said bidder less favorably.

31. A method as in claim ~~27~~28, wherein said conducting comprises accepting bids in a ~~first~~ way which keeps bids at a lower level less than a maximum bid but high enough to win a specified auction, and said treating comprises accepting bids at a maximum amount without keeping them at said lower level.

32. (Original) A method comprising:  
conducting an auction over a network by accepting bids for items, and  
establishing a highest bid for an item as being a winning bid;  
determining identities of bidders bidding during said conducting; and  
treating a bid from bidders whose identities have not been determined by said determining, and which bids are received within a predetermined period of time before

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an end time of an auction, less favorably than bids received prior to said predetermined period.

33. (Original) A method as in claim 19, wherein said information associated with the bid for the item is a current bid amount.